

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Washington 25, D. C.



A BRIEF ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY
OF THE
OFFICE OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1917 - 1962



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Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Southeast, Midwest, Southwest, Western,
Northeast, and National Capital Regions

From: Assistant Director, Design and Construction

Subject: Organizational History of the Office of Design and
Construction

Enclosed are a few copies of A Brief Organizational History of the
Office of Design and Construction which we think will be of interest
to you and your staff. Copies were not distributed to park offices
as we hope to have the history published soon in the National Park
Courier.

L. Clark Stratton
L. Clark Stratton

enclosures 5

A BRIEF ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY
OF THE
OFFICE OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1917 - 1962

By
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Administrative Assistant
Office of the Assistant Director
Design and Construction
National Park Service

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The assistance and cooperation of
Messrs. Dudley C. Bayliss, John B. Cabot,
Howard J. Cameron, William G. Carnes,
Earl A. Disque, Edwin C. Kenner,
Paul McG. Miller, Fred R. Morrell,
William E. O'Neil, Jr., John A. Reshoft,
Merel S. Sager, Hillory A. Tolson,
and Thomas C. Vint and Miss Theresa G. Wood
in furnishing information, verifying data,
and editing this publication
is gratefully acknowledged.

Soon after the establishment of the National Park Service in 1916 the Director recognized the need for professional advice in discharging his dual responsibilities for preserving the national parks and making them accessible for the enjoyment of the people. To help meet this need an engineer was appointed in 1917 and a landscape architect in 1918. Mr. George Goodwin was the first chief engineer of the Service. During part of his tour of duty as chief engineer he also served as acting superintendent of Glacier National Park. Mr. Charles Punchard was the first landscape architect employed by the Service. When he died in 1920, he was succeeded by Mr. Dan R. Hull whose headquarters was in Yosemite National Park.

In 1922, the landscape architectural staff was doubled when Mr. Thomas C. Vint joined the Service. The landscape office was soon moved to Los Angeles, California, and the personnel staffing was gradually increased as more parks or units were added to the system and as the development of the new parks was started. The office, known as the Landscape Architectural Division, was staffed from the twin professions of architecture and landscape architecture. By 1922, the engineering office was located at Portland, Oregon.

In 1926, a Memorandum of Agreement was executed by the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture whereby the Bureau of Public Roads would handle the major road and bridge construction projects for the National Park Service in the future. The National Park Service Engineering Office was reorganized in March of that year to supervise the highway and trail maintenance, and to coordinate all other park engineering work under one engineering head. Mr. Goodwin resigned as chief engineer about this time and Mr. Bert H. Burrell became acting chief engineer. The Portland Engineering Office was discontinued and a new headquarters was established at Yellowstone National Park.

Following the resignation of Mr. Hull in 1927, Mr. Vint was placed in charge of the landscape architectural work. In March 1927, the landscape architectural office moved to San Francisco. Mr. Merel S. Sager, still in the Harvard University Graduate School of Design, was employed as a landscape architect during the summer to do "trouble shooting" for Mr. Vint. The following June 1928, Mr. Sager took the first U. S. civil service examination ever given in landscape architecture and received his permanent appointment with the Service. On October 1, 1927, the Engineering Office moved from Yellowstone National

Park to San Francisco. Mr. Frank A. Kittredge came from the Bureau of Public Roads to become chief engineer for the Service. Mr. Burrell then became assistant chief engineer. Field headquarters were set up in the Underwood Building in San Francisco for both the engineering and the landscape architectural divisions. Up to this time, the Landscape Architectural Division had offices in the Sheldon Building.

On June 27, 1928 the Director designated the San Francisco office of National Park Service as Field Headquarters, National Park Service. That designation embraced the operations of the Civil Engineering Division under Mr. Frank A. Kittredge as chief engineer; the Landscape Architectural Division with Mr. Vint as chief landscape architect; and the Educational Division under the supervision of Mr. Ansel Hall as chief naturalist and forester. However, Mr. Hall maintained his office at the University of California at Berkeley.

By 1930, several national parks and monuments had been established in the East. This made it necessary to have eastern offices for professional engineering, architectural, and landscape architectural work in those parks. To meet that need field offices were established in Yorktown, Virginia. Mr. Oliver G. Taylor was chief of the engineering office and Mr. Charles E. Peterson was chief of the architectural and landscape architectural office.

The Branch of Plans and Design was officially established in 1933 and consisted of the Office of the Chief Architect in San Francisco, an Eastern Division office in Washington, D. C., and a Western Division office in San Francisco. Mr. Vint was chief architect, Mr. Peterson was in charge of the Eastern Division, and Mr. William G. Carnes was in charge of the Western Division. Late in 1933, Mr. Vint moved to Washington to continue his duties there as Chief Architect.

The Office of the Chief Architect supervised a staff of architects, landscape architects, consultants and collaborators for such large projects as Green Mountain Parkway (proposed), Historic American Buildings Survey, Morristown Library-Museum, Shenandoah-Great Smoky Mountains National Parkway (which later became Blue Ridge Parkway), and Natchez Trace Parkway. In addition to a staff of 25 or 30 architects and landscape architects, each of the division offices had a sizeable number of these professional employees on field assignments to the parks and monuments.

In the early 1930s, the Branch of Engineering had increased its staff to direct the ever-increasing number and scope of activities that became its responsibility. There were also a number of engineers on field assignments. (No data were readily available for reference to adequately show the scope of organization for the period.) In 1935, Mr. Kittredge was chief of the Branch of Engineering and Mr. Oliver G. Taylor was deputy chief engineer in charge of the Eastern Division of the branch.

The eastern and western division offices of the branches of Engineering and Plans and Design were abolished as such in 1936 to conform to Service plans of regionalization. A small office of each branch was located in Washington, a staff in each of the four regional offices, and staffs in the Blue Ridge and Natchez Trace Parkways offices located in Roanoke, Virginia, and Jackson, Mississippi, respectively. At this time, Mr. Peterson went from the Washington Office of the Branch of Plans and Design to become senior landscape architect at Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis. Mr. Carnes succeeded Mr. Peterson in the Washington Office and in 1937 became deputy chief architect.

When Mr. Kittredge became Regional Director of Region Four, in 1937, Mr. Taylor succeeded him as Chief Engineer. Mr. Arthur W. Burney became deputy chief engineer.

In August 1942, the Washington Offices of the Service and of two other bureaus of the Department of the Interior moved to the Merchandise Mart in Chicago. The move was made in order to provide more office space in Washington for defense agencies during World War II. Due to the war effort, the staffing of the branches of Engineering and Plans and Design was severely curtailed. In 1943, each of these branches had only four or five professional employees to supervise their portion of the housekeeping, maintenance, and postwar planning of the parks during this enforced lull in design and construction.

Shortly after the cessation of hostilities in 1945, the offices began to increase their staffing with returnees from military furlough and civilian defense work, and by recruitment. On December 2, 1946, the Branch of Development was established by consolidation of the former branches of Plans and Design, and Engineering which were still located in Chicago.

The Chicago office of the Service, including the Branch of Development, moved back to the Interior Building in Washington in October 1947. Subsequently, the designation of the office was changed from branch to division. This was done to conform to the designation of similar organizational levels of responsibility throughout the Federal Government.

The organization of the office was changed in October 1949 to include Assistant Chief of Development (Chief Architect) Dick Sutton. Mr. Sutton was also chief of the architectural branch in the Washington Office. At that time the architectural branch also had an architectural engineer, Edwin C. Kenner, who handled the Service's rehabilitation program.

The name of the office was changed from Development Division to Planning and Construction Division in January 1950. During that year the Water Resources Branch headed by Mr. A. van V. Dunn and the Project Branch headed by Mr. Charles E. Gerner were transferred from Planning and Construction Division to the Branch of Lands. Later the organizational title of the office was changed from Planning and Construction Division to Design and Construction.

Mr. Kittredge retired from his position of Chief Engineer in 1952 and was succeeded by Mr. Paul McG. Miller.

As a result of a study made in 1953 by a survey team of the Department of the Interior, the entire National Park Service was reorganized. Most of the reorganization was accomplished in 1954. On February 15, 1954, the Design and Construction Division was reorganized. Field personnel and functions of design and construction work formerly handled by the regional offices of the Service were later transferred to the Eastern and Western Offices of the Division.

^{IN}
~~On~~ March 1954, the designation of the office was changed from Design and Construction Division to Division of Design and Construction.

The reorganization of the Service precluded activation of the Maintenance Branch as such in 1953. However, the maintenance and rehabilitation function which had been handled by architectural engineer Edwin C. Kenner under the chief architect since 1947 was transferred to the Division of Operations early in 1954 where it was established in the Branch of Conservation and Protection.

In May 1954 the programming activity of the division headed by Mr. Henry Langley was transferred to the Division of Operations and became the Programs and Control Branch.

The Eastern and Western Offices, Division of Design and Construction, located in Philadelphia and San Francisco, respectively, were established on June 1, 1954, (See appendix for principal offices and staffing).

In February 1956, Chief Landscape Architect Carnes, who had been with the Washington Office of the division since 1936, was transferred from the division to become head of a new 10-year Servicewide development program under the Director's Office known as MISSION 66. Mr. Sager succeeded Mr. Carnes as chief landscape architect.

Because of the voluminous ^{amount} ~~work~~ of administrative, personnel, and budget work in the design and construction activities of the enlarged organization, an administrative section was set up in the Washington Office and each of the two field design offices of the division.

The Branch of Architecture in the Washington and Eastern Offices of the division was expanded in July 1957 to include resumption of the Historic American Buildings Survey program which had been officially inactive since its interruption in 1941 by World War II. This activity was supervised in the Eastern Office by architect Charles E. Peterson.

In October 1957, Mr. Earl H. Reed, Chairman of the Committee on Preservation of Historic Buildings, American Institute of Architects, was appointed as architect, WAE, Washington Office, with duty station in Chicago, to coordinate HABS activities between the Service and the AIA including the work of the field preservation officers of the latter organization.

Mr. Robert P. White died on November 30, 1958, and Mr. Ross F. Sweeny succeeded him as supervising engineer in charge of the Branch of Engineering at EODC.

Mr. Harvey H. Cornell retired from his position of Supervising Landscape Architect, EODC, in August 1959 and was succeeded by Mr. Eugene R. DeSilets.

Mr. Dick Sutton retired from his position of chief architect on November 30, 1960 and was succeeded by Mr. Robert E. Smith.

Mr. A. Clark Stratton transferred from Chief of Concessions, Washington Office, to Assistant Chief of Design and Construction on December 11, 1960.

Mr. Edward S. Zimmer retired from the position of Chief, Eastern Office, on March 31, 1961. After an interim period of acting chiefs, Mr. Robert G. Hall was transferred from WODC to become Chief of EODC in July 1961.

On July 24, 1961, Mr. Robert E. Smith became Chief of the Architectural Branch, EODC, and Mr. John B. Cabot became Chief Architect in the Washington Office.

Another major reorganization of the Service occurred in October 1961. Mr. Vint became one of the three ^{new} assistant directors of the Service. His title was Assistant Director (Design and Construction). At the same time Design and Construction lost its identity as a division while the former branches of Architecture, Engineering, and Landscape Architecture achieved division status. The 1961 reorganization resulted in the establishment of the Divisions of Construction and Master Plan Coordination in the Washington Office, and a new field office, National Capital Office, Design and Construction. The latter office was formerly the Division of Design and Construction, National Capital Parks. (The remainder of the National Capital Parks office became the Region Six Office of the Service. In 1962, the name was changed to National Capital Regional Office.)

Supervising park landscape architect John A. Reshoft became chief of the Division of Master Plan Coordination.

Supervising architect Lyle E. Bennett in charge of the Branch of Architecture, WODC, was reassigned to the Washington Office of Design and Construction in October 1961 as supervisory research architect with headquarters in San Francisco. He was succeeded in the Western Office by Mr. Jerry A. Riddell.

Mr. Vint retired on November 9, 1961, after completing 39 years in the National Park Service -- all of which were devoted to the development of the parks in keeping with the mandate to preserve them and make them more accessible for the enjoyment of the people. During Mr. Vint's notable career with the Service the Office of Design and Construction grew from its very modest beginning of an engineering office and a landscape architectural office totaling some three or four people to a Washington office headed by an Assistant Director, three field design offices, and a total of nearly 400 permanent employees.

Mr. A. Clark Stratton succeeded Mr. Vint as Assistant Director on November 10, 1961.

Appendix

ORGANIZATION AND STAFFING OF OFFICE OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
(As extracted from various organization and staffing charts, 1937-1962)

Branch of Plans and Design, April 1937

Chief Architect - Thomas C. Vint
Asst. Chief Architect - William G. Carnes
Asst. Chief Architect in charge of Arch. Div. - Dudley C. Bayliss, Acting
Architectural Plans and Specifications Sect. - Dick Sutton, Chief
Historic American Buildings Survey - John P. O'Neil, Acting Chief
Asst. Chief Arch. in charge of Landscape Arch. Div. - Harry T. Thompson,
Acting Chief
Landscape Plans and Specifications Sect. - Philip C. Puderer, Acting Chief
Master Plans and Development Section - Hodge J. Hanson, Acting Chief
Roads and Parkways Plans and Program Sect. - George J. Albrecht, Acting Chief
Fiscal and Clerical Section - Theodore J. Taggart, Chief

Branch of Engineering, November 1937

Chief Engineer - Oliver G. Taylor
Deputy Chief Engineer - Arthur W. Burney
Design and Contract Division - W. B. Montgomery
Survey and Construction Division - Francis F. Gillen
Equipment Division - Rene H. Reixach
Structural, Sanitary, Water Supply and Research Div. - Edward F. Preece
Survey, Design and Roads and Trails Division - John S. Cross

Branch of Engineering, December 1938

Chief of Engineering - Oliver G. Taylor
Assit. Chief of Engineering - Arthur W. Burney
Chief, Survey and Construction Division - Francis F. Gillen
Chief, Design and Contract Division - W. B. Montgomery
Chief, Sanitation, Hydrolic and Research Division - Edward F. Preece
Chief, Equipment Division - Rene H. Reixach
Chief, Survey, Design and Road Division (outside D. C.) - John S. Cross

Branch of Plans and Design, December 1938

Chief of Planning - Thomas C. Vint
Asst. Chief of Planning - William G. Carnes
Chief, Architectural Division - Dick Sutton
Chief, Landscape Division - Harry T. Thompson

Branch of Plans and Design, December 1938 (con.)

Chief, Roads and Trails and Parkways Division - Dudley C. Bayliss
Chief, Historic American Buildings Survey Section - John P. O'Neil
Principal Clerk - Theodore J. Taggart

Branch of Engineering, July 1, 1943
(To show reduced staffing caused by World War II)

Acting Chief Engineer - Arthur W. Burney
Equipment Division - Roger M. Rittase
General Engineering Division - Ward P. Webber
Project Coordination and Statistics Division - Charles H. Gerner

Branch of Development, December 2, 1946 (Chicago)
(Establish by consolidation of former branches of Engineering and Plans and Design.)

Chief of Development - Thomas C. Vint
Asst. Chief of Development (Engineering) - Arthur W. Burney
Chief, Design Division - Ward P. Webber
" Electrical Division - Charles D. Monteith
" Minor Roads Division - Alfred D. Curradi
" Project Division - Charles H. Gerner
" Water Division - Allison Van V. Dunn
Asst. Chief of Development (Plans and Design) - William G. Carnes
Chief, Architectural Division - Dick Sutton
" Development Program Division - Henry Langley
" Landscape Division - Robert G. Hall
" Major Roads Division - Edward S. Zimmer
" Parkways Division - Dudley C. Bayliss

Division of Development, July 1, 1948

Chief of Development - Thomas C. Vint.
Asst. Chief of Development (Chief Engineer) - Frank A. Kittredge
Chief, Electrical Branch - Charles D. Monteith
" Minor Roads Branch - Paul McG. Miller
" Project Branch - Charles H. Gerner
" Water Resources Branch - Allison Van V. Dunn
Asst. Chief of Development (Chief Landscape Architect) - William G. Carnes
Chief, Architectural Branch - Dick Sutton
" Development Branch - Henry Langley
" Landscape Architectural Branch - Robert G. Hall
" Major Roads Branch - Edward S. Zimmer

Division of Design and Construction as reorganized, June 1, 1954

Washington Office

Chief of Design and Construction	- Thomas C. Vint
Chief Architect	- Dick Sutton
Chief Engineer	- Paul McG. Miller
Chief Landscape Architect	- William G. Carnes

Eastern Office, Philadelphia, Pa.

Chief, Eastern Office	- Edward S. Zimmer
Supervising Architect	- John B. Cabot
Supervising Engineer	- Robert P. White
Supervising Landscape Architect	- Harvey H. Cornell

Western Office, San Francisco, Calif.

Chief, Western Office	- Sanford Hill
Supervising Architect	- Lyle E. Bennett
Supervising Engineer	- Percy E. Smith
Supervising Landscape Architect	- Robert G. Hall

Administrative organization, Division of Design and Const., 1957

Washington Office

Administrative Officer	- Fred R. Morrell
Administrative Assistant	- Vernon L. Hammons
Secretary to the Chief of Design and Construction	- Miss Theresa G. Wood

Eastern Office

Administrative Officer	- Alton Aaron
Personnel Officer	- Paul Perricone
Secretary to the Chief of EODC	- Mrs. Gladys Naegely

Western Office

Administrative Officer	- Robert H. Coombs
Personnel Officer	- Lewis D. Farr
Secretary to the Chief of WODC	- Miss Frances Archambault

Washington Office of Design and Construction, October 1961

Assistant Director (Design & Const.) - Thomas C. Vint
Division of Architecture - John B. Cabot, Chief Architect
Division of Construction - (vacant)
Division of Engineering - Paul McG. Miller, Chief Engineer
Division of Landscape Architecture - Merel S. Sager, Chief Land. Arch.
Division of Master Plan Coordination - John A. Reshoft, Chief

Office of Design and Construction, June 30, 1962
Washington Office

Office of the Assistant Director - A. Clark Stratton, Asst. Director
Secretary - Miss Theresa G. Wood
Administrative Officer - Fred R. Morrell
Administrative Assistant - Vernon L. Hammons

Division of Architecture - John B. Cabot, Chief Architect
Branch of General Architecture - Kenneth H. Goslin
Branch of Historic Architecture - (vacant)

Division of Construction - (vacant)

Division of Engineering - Paul McG. Miller, Chief Engineer
Branch of General Engineering - Richard T. Montgomery
Branch of Transportation Eng. - Howard J. Cameron
Branch of Utility Engineering - Samuel A. Hoover, Jr.

Division of Landscape Architecture - Merel S. Sager, Chief Land. Arch.
Branch of Master Plans and General Design - (vacant)
Branch of Park Roads - Benjamin L. Breeze
Branch of Parkways - Dudley C. Bayliss

Division of Master Plan Coord. - John A. Reshoft, Chief
Branch of Master Plan Drawings - Edward S. Peetz
Branch of Master Plan Narratives - (vacant)

Eastern Office, Philadelphia

Chief of EODC - Robert G. Hall
Secretary - Mrs. Jean A. Knapp
Administrative Officer - Alton Aaron
Personnel Officer - Paul Perricone

Eastern Office, Philadelphia (con.)

Branch of Architecture	- Robert E. Smith, Chief
Branch of Engineering	- Ross F. Sweeny, Chief
Branch of Landscape Architecture	- Eugene R. DeSilets, Chief

Western Office, San Francisco

Chief of WODC	- Sanford Hill
Secretary	- Miss Frances Archambault
Administrative Officer	- Robert H. Coombs
Personnel Officer	- Lewis D. Farr
Branch of Architecture	- Jerry A. Riddell, Chief
Branch of Engineering	- Percy E. Smith, Chief
Branch of Landscape Architecture	- Charles E. Krueger, Chief

National Capital Office, Washington

Chief of NCDC	- William M. Haussmann
Secretary	- Mrs. Gladys M. Hanson
Administrative Assistant	- Herbert G. Graul
Branch of Architecture	- Charles W. Lessig, Chief
Branch of Construction	- Everett O'Brien, Chief
Branch of Engineering	- Manus J. Fish, Jr., Chief
Branch of Landscape Architecture	- Robert W. Andrews, Chief

(Note: Organization of the Office of Design and Construction was substantially the same as above when Mr. Vint retired and Mr. Stratton succeeded him as Assistant Director in November 1961 except National Capital Office had not been fully reorganized.)